



EDDIE A. PEREZ
Mayor

MEDIA ADVISORY

MAYOR PEREZ CELEBRATES GRANT TO FUND CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS.

WHEN: Monday, December 19, 2005 at 7:00 pm.

WHERE: Capital Community College Auditorium, 11th Floor
950 Main Street, Hartford

WHO: Mayor Eddie A. Perez
Dr. Calvin E. Woodland, President Capital Community College
Darlene Raggozzine, Director CT Charts-A-Course
Commissioner Pat Wilson-Coker, Department of Social Services

Hartford's Recipients of the Connecticut Charts-A-Course
Scholarship Assistance Program

Mayor Eddie Perez and Dr. Calvin E. Woodland are delighted to announce the award of scholarships to over 100 Hartford early childhood professionals from the Connecticut Charts-A-Course Scholarship Assistance Program, funded by the Connecticut State Department of Social Services. Scholarship recipients are eligible to receive four tuition-free college courses, including tutoring and case management services available in order to ensure their success.

The Mayor's early childhood vision defines Hartford as a City that nurtures every child and creates an environment where young children are healthy, safe, and find early success in school and life. He has therefore established a Mayor's Cabinet for Early Childhood and an Office for Young Children to fully implement his plan.

Mayor Perez says, "Education begins at birth. It is never too early to start learning, so why not from the moment you are born! The Office for Young Children will implement our comprehensive plan for our youngest citizens- age zero to 8- to give them the skills they need to succeed in school and in life."

Mayor Perez understands that in order to prepare young children for school success, Hartford preschool classrooms must be staffed with qualified professionals. The tuition-free college courses offered through this initiative will not only further the credentials of classroom staff and increase the quality of early learning experiences for hundreds of young children, it will also provide early childhood professionals an opportunity that they may not otherwise have, to pursue a college degree. Mayor Perez is especially proud of the eight bilingual courses included in this initiative developed in response to the needs of Hartford's families and early childhood professionals.

For more information on Mayor Perez' early childhood initiative, contact Dr. Jose Colon-Rivas, Director of the Mayor's Office for Young Children at (860) 543-8528.